

- PAGE 2. Mayor on renewing the community.
- PAGE 3. Approved 2004 Budget.
- PAGE 4. Recreation activities.
- PAGE 5. Arts events.
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- PAGE 7. Programs serving you and our community.
- PAGE 8. Ordinance amendments affect solicitors and skateboarders.

## BRIEFING SPORTS NEW LOOK FOR 2004!

IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW LOOK for the *Bloomington Briefing*. The design features more color and useful information. And thanks to printing innovations, costs are the same as the previous style – just 24 cents to print and mail each *Briefing*. Tell us what you think about the new design by contacting Communications Administrator Diann Kirby at 952-563-8818 or [dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

## YOUTH ACTIVITY GUIDE

LOOKING TO GET YOUR SEVEN-YEAR-OLD into soccer? Is your 10th grader talking about co-rec softball? Bloomington offers a wide range of activities for youth and a new online youth activity guide makes it easier to find them. The *A-Z Youth Activity Guide* lists youth sports and activities alphabetically and by age and season. The guide is located at [www.tricitypartners.org](http://www.tricitypartners.org) and on the City's Web site, keywords "youth guide."



## CHECK OUT CURBSIDE CLEAN-UP DATES

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY AND CURBSIDE Clean-up is quickly approaching. For your collection dates, *see page 7*.

## CHECK YOUR PRESSURE

THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN the City of Bloomington, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and the American Heart Association, a blood pressure machine is now located in the main hallway at Creekside. The machine is available to the public, Monday - Friday from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. , and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Use of the machine is free.



## ARRESTING TOPICS

### ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS GET A HANDS-ON LOOK AT OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident Carol Thomsen tries on body armor at last fall's Citizens' Police Academy.



TWENTY-NINE PEOPLE RESPONDED to the call of the 6th Citizens' Police Academy last fall. The 10-week course gave participants an inside look at the Bloomington Police Department's Traffic, Special Investigations, Bomb Squad, K-9 units and more. Activities

included Department tours, a ride-along with street officers and role-playing with "Shoot, Don't Shoot" scenarios.

The Citizen's Police Academy provides those who live and work in Bloomington an opportunity to learn more about how the Police Department

operates and its policies, priorities and challenges. For more information or for an application for the fall 2004 Academy, call Lieutenant Shaun LaDue at 952-563-4900.

# BLOOMINGTON HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR

## CITY STAFF AND EXHIBITORS WILL HELP YOU NAIL DOWN YOUR HOME PROJECT



**Saturday, February 28.**  
**9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
**Bloomington Civic Plaza,**  
1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd.

WANT TO LEARN HOW TO LAY CERAMIC tile? Get tips on installing ceiling fans and light fixtures? Find out more about

The City issued 6,680 building, mechanical, electrical and plumbing permits for single-family residential homes in 2003. Permit fees totaled \$551,670.

the City's codes? The Bloomington Home Improvement Fair will give you the tools to nail down your remodeling plans. Participating exhibitors will represent a variety of trades ranging from window replacements to porch additions. City

staff will also be available for questions.



**Do you qualify for a home improvement loan? See page 8.**

## INTERVIEW WITH A VENDOR



JIM NASH,  
OWNER OF  
Northstar

Home Improvement and one of this year's vendors, has participated at various community fairs over the last 10 years. Compared to the larger home improvement shows that can be overwhelming, Nash says the Bloomington Home Improvement Fair is personalized to better serve customers' needs. "Vendors at Bloomington's Home Improvement Fair want to do business in our community," said Nash, a resident since 1969. "What's nice is the smaller, intimate setting where you have a better chance of one-on-one communication."

Nash, whose company specializes in siding and replacement windows, will present the latest in exterior vinyl siding products.

Stop by on February 28 and say "hello" to Jim!



## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

### 10 A.M.

Ceramic Tile  
*by Home Depot*

How to Choose a Contractor  
*by NorthStar Home Improvement*

15 Steps to Reality Remodeling  
*by New Spaces*

Dutch Elm Disease and Other Tree Care Tips  
*by Rainbow Treecare*

### 11 A.M.

Faux Painting  
*by Home Depot*

Remodeling Project: From Concept to Completion  
*by Plekkenpol Builders*

Aging in Place: Universal Design  
*by New Spaces*

Busting the Top 10 Myths of Home Comfort and Energy Use  
*by Standard Heating*

### 12 P.M.

Deck Design and Building  
*by Home Depot*

Be Your Own General Contractor  
*by Owner Built Construction Mgmt.*

How to Choose Replacement Windows  
*by Renewal by Anderson*

Building Code for Remodeling  
*by City's B and I Division*

### 1 P.M.

Landscaping  
*by Home Depot*

Decorative Driveway Pavements  
*by Driveway Design*

Three and Four Season Season Porches  
*by Roncor Construction*

Time-of-Sale: All You Need to Know  
*by City's B and I Division*

**PLUS** Kids Workshop Booth *by Home Depot*



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